



Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation

Telephone: 01952386100

Email: CSE@holytrinity.academy

Contents Page:

Page 1 –Contents

Page 2—Points of Contact

Page 3—What is Child Sexual Exploitation? and What does CSE involve?

Page 4— How does CSE occur? And Online Exploitation

Page 5—What is Criminal Exploitation? And County Lines

Page 6 + 7— Forms and Methods of Child Criminal Exploitation

Page 8—Online Criminal Exploitation and Grooming

Page 9—Stages of Grooming: Targeting Stage

Page 10—Stages of Grooming: Experience Stage

Page 11 - Stages of Grooming: Hooked Stage

Page 12—Stages of Grooming: Trapped Stage

Page 13— Who is at risk of Exploitation?

Page 14—Indicators of Exploitation

Page 15—Reporting Concerns

Page 16— Family Connect

Page 17 + 18—Internal Support for students and families

Page 19 + 20— External support for students and families: CATE and NRM

Page 21 + 22—External support for students and families: Childline, St Giles and Fearless

Page 23 + 24—External support for students and families: The Children's Society

Page 25 + 26—External support for students and families: Barnados and The Holly Project

The aim of this guide is to help educate and expand understanding of what Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation are, how to recognise indicators that may help to identify if a young person is being exploited, and what to do if you have any concerns.

Many of you will remember the Child Sexual Exploitation scandal that was uncovered in Telford. Due to the scale of this problem, the government commissioned an independent inquiry into the failing of professionals to safeguard children from exploitation. In their efforts to combat exploitation in Telford and Wrekin, each school in Telford have appointed a designated lead for Child Sexual and Child Criminal Exploitation, these leads network with one another to help 'map out' areas of concern and trends in their areas. CSE leads also work to provide data to the on-going inquiry report and to Telford and Wrekin Council. The leads raise awareness within school in an age appropriate way. Additionally, they work with various external agencies such as the Police, CATE, and the Safeguarding team with the aim to create a clear procedure for highlighting children who are vulnerable or at risk of being exploited, and ensuring that they get the correct advice and support. Regular updates and training possibilities are published in the Holy Trinity Academy bulletin, so please keep an eye out for these.

Points of Contact:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Montgomery

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss K Handy

Email: Enquiries@holytrinity.academy

Designated Lead for CSE/CCE: Mrs Emma Reader (DSL)

Email: CSE@holytrinity.academy

Head Of Year and Pastoral:

Year 7– Mrs Proudler and Miss Barnett

Year 8– Mr Clarke and Mrs Reader/Mr Reader

Year 9– Miss Rankine and Miss Uttley

Year 10– Mrs Kennedy and Ms Potts

Year 11– Mrs Sedgley and Ms Potts

External Agencies:

Family Connect— 01952 385385 or familyconnect@telford.gov.uk

Childline—0800 1111

Fearless— 0800 555 111 or <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/professionals/crime-types-explained/child-sexual-exploitation-cse>

St Giles— [Home - St Giles \(stgilestrust.org.uk\)](http://stgilestrust.org.uk)

The Children's Society— [The Children's Society | UK children's charity \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](http://childrenssociety.org.uk)

Barnardo's— [Barnardo's | Children's charity | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](http://barnardos.org.uk)

The Holly Project - [Home - The Holly Project | Support for CSE victims and survivors](#)

Please see our External Agency Support section for more information.

Please support HTA in keeping our children safe in the community. If you have any concerns regarding a young person, please alert a DSL and report it to Family Connect, if you are concerned that there is immediate danger, please call 999.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Government Definition:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse.

It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Telford and Wrekin Definition:

Child sexual exploitation is a type of modern slavery when a male or female under 18 is sexually exploited for the benefit or gain of someone else. The benefit or gain can come in many forms such as increased social status or financial gain. Some victims are also trafficked for the purpose of exploitation

What does CSE involve?

Any young person regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or class can be exploited.

This means they are forced into sexual acts or the misuse of sexual images.

In return, they, or another person, may be provided with drugs, alcohol, or other items of value or other basic necessities such as affection or attention. Sometimes they are threatened with violence or shame.

How does CSE occur?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people can occur in a variety of ways:

- Online – through things such as the internet, social media, smart phone apps and games consoles
- Through people the person will know, this might include other children or young people, family or friends or someone in power
- Through parties
- Through gangs
- Through grooming and coercion
- Through opportunist situations.

Online Exploitation:

Online Exploitation – an individual or group using online platforms to take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual and/ or criminal activity that can occur both online and offline. Using the internet means that sexual exploitation can also occur when the child has no direct contact with the person exploiting them. For example, the child is groomed to post sexual abuse images of themselves on the internet for the gratification of another person. The anonymity of social networking sites and instant messaging can provide easy access to children and young people.

If a child or young person has access to the internet, and/or social networking sites, apps or online gaming that parents are consistently monitoring this use to ensure their safety online. Holy Trinity Academy holds training for parents on Online Safety to help with this, information will be available on the bulletin for the next session. We also cover this as part of the curriculum for our students.

What is Child Criminal Exploitation?

Government Definition:

Child criminal exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

County Lines

“County lines” is a violent and exploitative form of drug distribution. A common feature of county lines is the exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults who are instructed to deliver and/or store drugs, and associated money or weapons, to dealers or drug users, locally or in other counties.

The UK Government defines County Lines as:

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.”

While county lines victims are not limited to under 18 year olds, where a child is exploited, it is often described as child criminal exploitation.

Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just county lines and includes, for instance, children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft, running money through ‘ticket machines’ and helping with robberies. Additionally, some young people can be sent out of area and they may be away for days at a time. Nevertheless, many of the characteristics of county lines exploitation will be present in other forms of child criminal exploitation. Likewise, victims of county lines may also experience other overlapping forms of exploitation, such as sexual, in addition to criminal and could also be trafficked.

Forms and Methods of Child Criminal Exploitation

County lines exploitation can be perpetrated by individuals or groups of any gender or nationality and can appear unsophisticated or organised. It is typified by some form of power imbalance, which perpetrators use to force, coerce, groom and/or entice victims into county lines activity. They can employ several methods to do so, such as:

- **offering an exchange** – carrying drugs in return for something, such as money, clothes, drugs, status, protection or perceived friendship, a sense of belonging or identity, or affection;
- **physical violence or threats of violence** – used to intimidate and punish victims and their families and can involve weapons, including knives and firearms;
- **abduction or kidnapping** – sometimes victims are forcibly moved and held in a location away from home;
- **emotional abuse or psychological coercive control** – by manipulating, threatening, controlling or monitoring the movements of the victim;
- **sexual abuse and exploitation** – this can be experienced by all genders;
- **blackmail** – by forcing victims to commit a crime so they can hold it over them and threaten to report it if they do not comply;
- **the use of social media, messaging apps, gaming sites and other online platforms** – including marketplace websites and smart TVs to target and communicate with victims. These modes are used by exploiters to falsely build online trusted relationships, or to post fraudulent job adverts which seem legitimate, or to cyberstalk victims in order to groom, entrap and coerce them into county lines activity;

Forms and Methods of Child Criminal Exploitation

- **"cuckooing" (also known as "forced home invasion")** – a tactic used by criminals, typically drug dealers, to take over the homes of vulnerable individuals, such as care leavers or those with addiction, physical or mental health issues, and use the property as a base for criminal activity. This is a common characteristic of the county lines business model and can occur in a range of settings such as rental and private properties, student accommodation, prisons, and commercial properties;
- **coerced internal concealment (also known as "plugging")** – the practice whereby a child or vulnerable adult is controlled or coerced into concealing drugs internally as a method of transportation to avoid detection. Drugs or sim cards are usually concealed within a condom or similar packaging and inserted into a bodily orifice (rectum or vagina) using lubricant, or swallowed; Criminal exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults County lines 5
- **debt bondage** – a form of entrapment when a victim owes money to their exploiters and is made to repay their debt, either financially or through another means such as transporting drugs. The exploiter may groom the victim by initially providing money or goods which the victim will then be made to pay back. The exploiter may also deliberately manufacture a debt, for example by staging a robbery of drugs or cash in the victim's possession in order to extort money from families or to ensure the victim will continue to perform tasks for them. The debt may also be inherited from parents and siblings; and
- **financial exploitation** – financial exploitation can take many forms. In this context, we use the term to describe exploitation which takes place for the purpose of money laundering. This is when criminals target children and adults at risk and take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate, or deceive them into facilitating the movement of illicit funds. This can include physical cash and/or payments through financial products, such as bank and cryptocurrency accounts.

Online Criminal Exploitation

Perpetrators can use online platforms as a way to criminally exploit young people by coercing them into criminal activity and then monitoring and controlling their movements. Location tracking: Organised crime groups track the location of children and young people through apps to coerce their behaviour and blackmail them into criminal activity. This is sometimes known as remote mothering. Money laundering: Young people's online bank or game accounts can be used to hold or 'clean' money from criminal activity. This is sometimes known as 'squaring'

Grooming:

Grooming is exploitation and occurs when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children can be groomed online or face to face by a stranger or someone they know for example, a family member, friend or professional.

Perpetrators may be any age, gender, ethnicity or class.

If a young person has been exploited , part of their exploitation may be to groom other young people to recruit them into criminal or sexual exploitation as well.

Online Grooming: The act of developing a relationship with a child to enable their abuse and exploitation both online and offline. Online platforms, such as online gaming, social media, messaging and live streaming, can be used to do this

Over the next couple of pages, we will explore the different stages of grooming that is common during exploitation.

Targeting Stage:

This stage is when the perpetrator targets a young person who is vulnerable, as this reduces their chances of recognising they are being exploited. The perpetrator picks their targets based on things like their age, strength or situation.

The signs of this stage include a perpetrator:

- Observing a young person
- Finding out the young persons vulnerabilities
- Selecting a young person as their target
- Glamourising their own lifestyle to the young person
- Gaining the young persons trust
- Telling other members of a gang or group about the young person
- Recruiting a young person to be part of their friendship group or gang
- Marking the young person as someone to watch

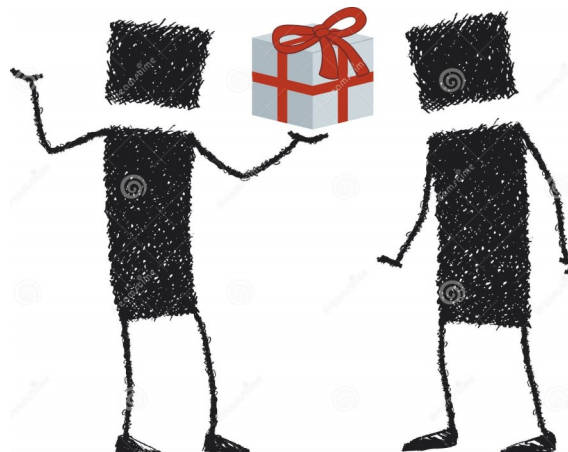


Experience Stage

This stage is when the perpetrator might try and get the young person used to their lifestyle, or train the young person up in what they are doing.

At this stage, this might include a perpetrator:

- Make the young person feel wanted
- Give the young person gifts and rewards
- Include the young person in lots of things
- Test the loyalty of the young person
- Offer the young person protection
- Relate to the young person and offer them advice
- Praise the young person or themselves
- Give the young person a weapon
- Introduce the young person to more established members of their gang
- Ask to see the skills that they have taught the young person and test them.

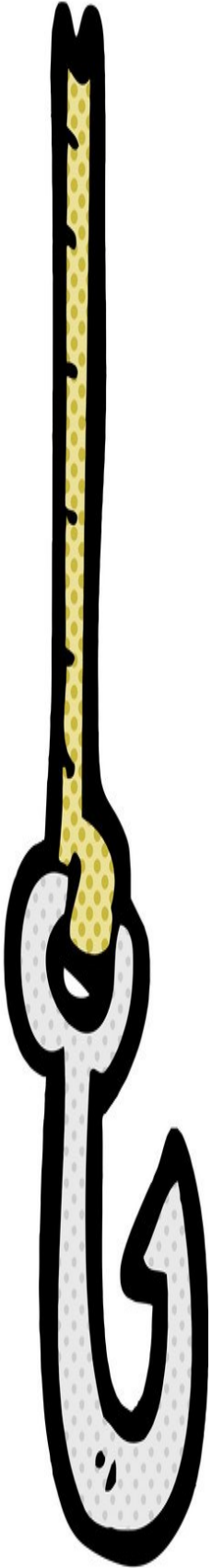


Hooked Stage

This stage is where the perpetrator will make the young person feel like their a member of their gang, even though they are just exploiting the young person for their own gain.

At this stage, this might include the young person:

- Having an identity within the group/gang
- Being given a bigger role within the group/gang
- Being asked to do crimes
- Feeling more powerful
- Being threatened
- Engaging in activities such as drugs, alcohol and sex
- Being asked for favours
- Keeping secrets
- Being asked to recruit others (this could also be other young people)
- Going to trap houses



Trapped Stage

This is the last stage of the grooming process, in this stage a young person will now feel dependent on the group/gang. During this stage the relationship that the young person has with their perpetrator might start to become unpleasant, as they begin to reveal their true character and intent. With the young person feeling trapped, it allows their perpetrator to take control and dominate them, this might result the young person feeling fearful and having no choice but to comply with the perpetrators request.

At this stage, the young person might experience:

- Threats
- People manipulating them emotionally or bringing them
- Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Being forced to abuse others
- Humiliation
- Involvement in the use of Class A drugs
- Running a Trap house
- Drug/alcohol addiction



Who is at risk of Exploitation?

Some experiences can make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, some examples are:

- Homelessness
- Going 'missing' - driven by push factors (running away from something) or pull factors (running to something)
- Low self esteem
- Regular substance misuse (including alcohol)
- Additional needs eg learning disabilities or mental health issues
- Being in care
- Experiencing death, loss or illness of a significant person
- From families that are new to an area
- From time-poor families
- Those experiencing criminal exploitation
- Any adverse childhood experiences (violence, abuse or neglect)

Children and young people are more likely to be protected from child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation if professionals, young people, parents and the wider community have a better understanding of the problem, can recognise key signs and know how to respond.

The link between children being sexually or criminally exploited and children going missing is very strong.

If you have any concerns or are suspicions that a young person is being exploited, please report it, ensure that you are including indicators and evidence of your concerns if you can. Remember, that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

Indicators of exploitation

There are a number of signs to look out for if you suspect a young person is being sexually or criminally exploited. If you recognise some of these behaviours then you should ask for help or report your concerns. If you can, keep a note of anything that worries you.

- Receiving unexplained gifts/items (these can include: vapes, cigarettes, drugs and alcohol, money or food and/or accommodation)
- Poor attendance at school or not going to college or work.
- Truancy or exclusion from school.
- Increased conflict and erratic behaviour.
- Bullying others.
- Irrational emotions and manic behaviour – ranging from extreme anger to extreme sadness.
- Becoming emotional or moody.
- Going missing or returning home late.
- Being picked up by unknown adults in unknown vehicles, including taxis and delivery vehicles.
- Returning home with injuries.
- Speaking to people online who are unknown to them.
- Signs of drug use or drug taking equipment.
- Sexual health concerns.
- Significant changes in presentation.
- A lack of personal hygiene.
- New and expensive clothing such as costly trainers.
- Becoming distant from family and friends, change in peer groups
- Becoming withdrawn from usual social networks.
- Self-harm, threatening suicide or suicide attempts.
- Excessive use of mobile phones.
- Using multiple mobile phones and SIM cards.
- Being secretive about their phone.
- Concerns raised by friends, neighbours or the local community.
- Possessing weapons.
- Getting arrested.
- Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens – ‘others have their back’ and ‘what’s the worst that can happen to them’.
- A sudden and over use of street language.
- Change in routine, such as staying out late, taking different routes home, leaving for school early
- Associating with peers already identified at risk of exploitation (CSE or CCE)
- Relationships with older people

Reporting Concerns:

If you have any concerns about a young person being exploited, you **must** report this concern. Please ensure that you provide as much detail (indicators met, and why you are concerned) as you can when making this report.

Exploitation concerns about a child or young person must be referred to Family Connect on 01952 385385. After 5pm or at the weekend please call 01952 676500.

If a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999.

If you are a parent, please also report these concerns to school and/or email **CSE@holytrinity.academy** with your concerns.

Reporting concerns in school:

Report to a DSL – A Montgomery or Pastoral Team Member (please see Point of Contact page for more details)

Report to Designated Lead for CSE – K Scott

If you are a member of staff, follow our safeguarding procedures and add concerns onto CPOMS for student and alert DSL on incident, please also alert K Scott (CSE Lead)

FamilyConnect

Families, carers and professionals can access comprehensive local information via this website relating to the needs of children aged 0 - 19 years old or to 24 years old for those with a disability.

At Family Connect we know that some families may need some extra help and support for a variety of reasons such as following:

- **Concerns about a child's welfare**
- **Support for a child with a disability**
- **Live Well Telford - Telford's all age online community directory**

Telephone: 01952 385385 (9am-5pm)
01952 676500 (5pm and Weekends)

Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

Text: 07537 453177

Email: familyconnect@telford.gov.uk

If you are not happy with the response received after referring to Family Connect, then raise it with your line manager (or if a parent, with Family Connect) and ask them to escalate the matter.



Internal support for students and families:

At Holy Trinity Academy, we have a Designated Lead for Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation. This lead is also a DSL and therefore is able to monitor and explore any concerns that staff, parents or students might have. As part of their role, they complete training, network with other schools and external agencies to help understand and map out exploitation trends and areas of concern in Telford.

At school, the Designated Lead will complete interventions with students where concerns have been raised. These interventions are used to educate students who are vulnerable to recognise the signs and indicators to protect themselves from exploitation. Additionally, the lead will complete referrals for those needing external agency support, to ensure that they are receiving the support they need at the earliest opportunity to combat exploitation.

The lead provides training to staff and holds training opportunities for parents to spread awareness and understanding of CSE and CCE. Please keep an eye out on the bulletin for the next training sessions, and updates around CSE and CCE.

If you have any questions regarding Child Sexual Exploitation or Child Criminal Exploitation, please email **CSE@holytrinity.academy**

If you have any concerns or suspicions that a young person is being exploited, you must report it. If you believe a child is in immediate danger, please contact 999.



Mrs Emma Reader

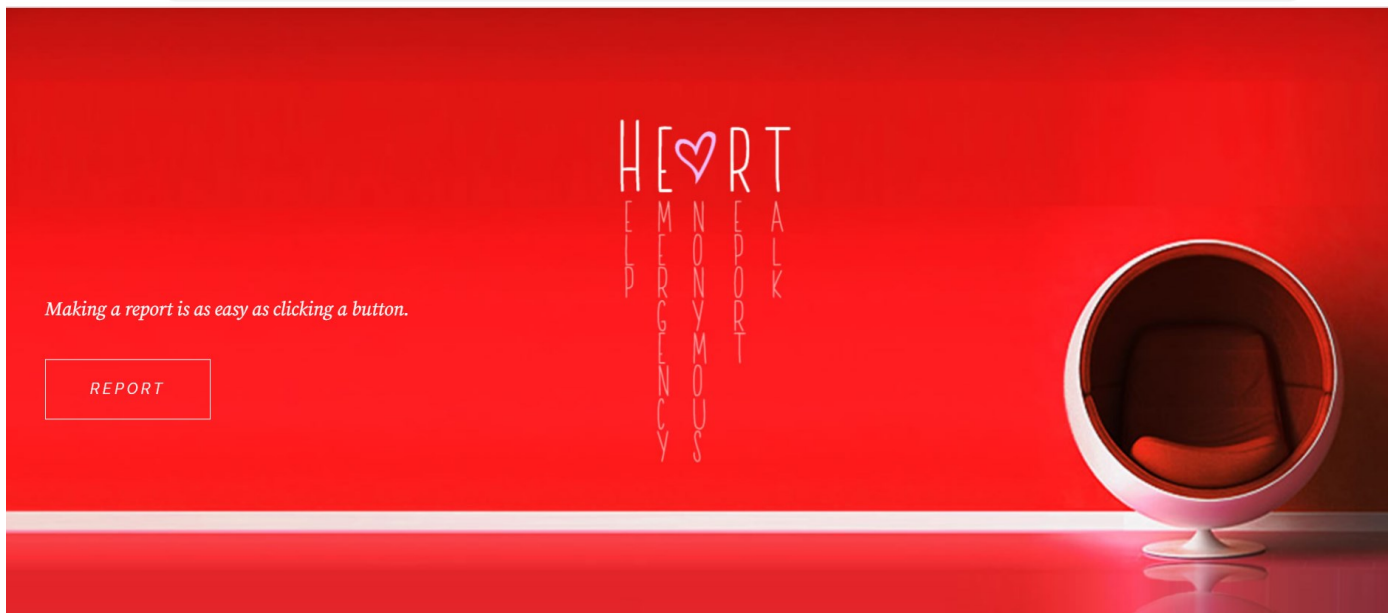
Designated Lead for Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation

Please see our Points of Contact page for more details of who supports young people at Holy Trinity Academy.



Internal support for students and families:

The HEART system:



The HEART System (Help Emergency Anonymous Report Talk) which allows young people to report any incidents which occur within the school and local community anonymously and without fear. Aside from the reporting tool HEART delivers educational content to raise awareness on a wide range of subjects including: Bullying, Health, Community Issues, Weapons and Hate Crime.

HEART is a web based tool which is personalised and created by Holy Trinity Academy and managed by SLT/Pastoral, This is a unique tool made just for you to provide comfort and to put your mind at ease, everyone deserves to talk.

The HEART System promotes inclusion, safeguarding, e-safety and provides additional opportunities for students to report their concerns.

If a student has any concerns that they or another young person is being exploited, they can use the HEART system to report this anonymously (although it does help if we know the details of the person who the concern is about) with their concerns, as starting this conversation face-to-face can be daunting.



External Support for students **and families:**

CATE Team:

In Telford we have a dedicated team to help young people and their families where a risk of sexual exploitation has been identified - the Children At risk Through Exploitation (CATE) team. They work alongside the young person and their families as well as statutory and voluntary services to safeguard the young person from CSE. This is an intervention programme and whilst targeted at ending exploitation takes time to have an effect.

When a referral to the CATE team is completed, a decision will be made as to what support will be offered. If the concerns meet thresholds for allocation, then a child will be allocated a CATE practitioner. This practitioner will build a trusting relationship with the young person and their family to complete a CSE risk assessment. This assessment will inform what multi-agency and planned support is needed to safeguard the young person. Parental consent is required to work with a young person if they are under the age of 16.

The Designated Lead for CSE and CCE will work with the CATE team to seek advice and provide them with data to help 'map out' exploitation trends and areas of concern. If the designated lead has concerns regarding a child, they can complete a CATE consultation to seek advice and support to help educate students on exploitation indicators. Please note, that for these consultations, parental consent is not required as the only consent needed is that of the young person.

For more information, please visit:

[A Guide for Children and Young People CATE leaflet PROOF.pdf](#)

[A Guide for parents and carers CATE leaflet PROOF.pdf](#)

[A Guide for Professionals CATE leaflet PROOF.pdf](#)

National Referral Mechanism

(NRM)

After a concern is reported, a first responder will also make a referral to the National Referral Mechanism.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support.

As per the Telford and Wrekin definition, Child Sexual Exploitation is a type of modern slavery and therefore anyone that is at risk of CSE or has been exploited, will also be referred to the National Referral Mechanism so that they can access their support.

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:

- Human trafficking
- Slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour

An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation. If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the relevant competent authority can fully consider the case. You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim.

You can find further information on The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referral process here:

[National referral mechanism guidance: adult \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/national-referral-mechanism-guidance-adult-england-and-wales)

[Modern Slavery and human trafficking: offences and defences, including the section 45 defence | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking-offences-and-defences-including-the-section-45-defence)

External Support for students **and families:**

There are a number of external organisations that can help educate, advise and support students and families that are vulnerable or have been victims to child exploitation. Holy Trinity Academy works alongside some of these agencies for external intervention, so that students and families are receiving the appropriate level of support that they need.

Childline—

Childline is here to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. Young people can talk about anything. Whether it's something big or small, our trained counsellors are here to support young people.

Childline is free, confidential and available any time, day or night. You can talk to us:

- by calling 0800 1111
- by email
- through 1-2-1 counsellor chat

Whatever feels best for you.

Find out more information about their work on Child Exploitation and Trafficking here: Child trafficking | Childline

Childline is a service that's run by the NSPCC.—for parent/carer advice, you can find information here: Child Sexual Exploitation & How to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC



St Giles—

Our services include employment services for disadvantaged adults and young people, help for adults with multiple and complex needs and support for vulnerable young people who are being criminally exploited through gangs, serious violence and offending.



St Giles provide training and support for young people to educate on Criminal Exploitation using practitioners with Lived Experience to help those most vulnerable educate themselves and protect themselves against exploitation. St Giles work with professionals and offer training, and also do school visits to educate students on the dangers of Knife Crime.

You can find more information about St Giles' work here: [Home - St Giles \(stgilestrust.org.uk\)](https://stgilestrust.org.uk) You can find more information on vulnerabilities on CCE via this mini-series here: [Child Criminal Exploitation: vulnerability mini-series - St Giles \(stgilestrust.org.uk\)](https://stgilestrust.org.uk)

Fearless—

Fearless is the dedicated youth service from independent charity Crimestoppers, it provides young people with the opportunity to give information about crime 100% anonymously.

Fearless empowers young people to speak up about crime by

- Promoting our unique service to speak up about crime 100% anonymously
- Raising awareness of what constitutes a crime
- Breaking down the barriers to reporting crime

We have a team of Fearless Outreach Workers who visit schools, youth clubs and sporting events to inform young people and professionals of our service. We also create engaging content on our social media channels to raise awareness and break down these barriers.

You can contact Fearless by phone on 0800 555 111 or visit their website for more information at: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/professionals/crime-types-explained/child-sexual-exploitation-cse>



External Support for students and families:

The Children's Society— [The Children's Society | UK children's charity \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

**The
Children's
Society**

We aim to end child exploitation in all forms. Alongside our partners, we develop effective responses to child exploitation and work tirelessly to change the systems that put young people at risk. Our sector-leading resources support professionals, parents and young people to better understand and respond to child exploitation.

The Children's Society offers a variety of intervention and community to support to help combat Child Criminal Exploitation, these include:

Disrupting Exploitation:

Disrupting Exploitation, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, works in two ways:

1. one-to-one support for young people and parents and carers affected by child criminal exploitation.
2. working with partners to improve responses to criminal exploitation and change the systems that put young people at risk.

We focus our systems change work on 'reachable moments' such as the point of arrest, point of assessment and point of exclusion. These priorities are underpinned by the experiences of young people and parents and a contextual safeguarding approach.

Prevention Programme:

The Prevention Programme is a systems change programme aiming to transform the spaces that children spend time in, and the organisations that they come into contact with. No child is responsible for their own exploitation, and it's not their responsibility to protect themselves from harm. It's up to all of us - businesses, the public, and professionals - to play an active role in protecting children from abuse. Our team of regional and national staff work across England and Wales to drive forward new responses to prevent and improve responses to exploitation and abuse. We collaborate, making connections across regions and sectors, and we empower our partners to create change in their communities.

External Support for students and families:

Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE)

Our Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme, funded by the Department for Education (DfE), aims to support local areas to improve strategic responses to child exploitation and risk of harm outside the family home. In particular, we focus on:

- Young voices
- Parent and community voices
- School exclusions
- Equality, diversity and inclusion

Steer Clear:

We offer group support for young people and their parents and carers, as well as targeted one-to-one sessions for young people who may have been carrying a weapon or have been pulled into criminal activity.

We work with schools, the police, social care, activity providers, and others to keep young people safe from harm and prevent the criminalisation associated with youth knife crime.

Find out more information here: [Steer Clear | The Children's Society](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/steer-clear)
([childrenssociety.org.uk](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk))

CLIMB:

Every child deserves to feel safe, secure, and hopeful. But right now, thousands of young people across the UK are at risk of being exploited by criminals.

At Climb, we're here to change things. Our transformative service is the first of its kind, helping children to develop new skills, form real friendships, and recognise people or situations that might be dangerous.

We work with schools, the police, social care, activity providers, and others to build safer communities, supporting young people who are missing school or college, have run away from home or care, or at risk of being forced into criminal activity.

At Climb, we work with young people under 17 before they're exploited, helping them stay safe. Through sports, arts, and more, we offer young people new opportunities. These diversionary activities empower young people to make positive choices about their futures.

Through Climb, young people can access sports, dance, arts, music, and more. It's a chance to find out what they're passionate about and build their resilience, so that they can deal with the challenges they're facing.

External Support for students and families:

Barnardo's—

We support thousands of children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse. We also provide support to their families, and to people working with children, such as social workers and teachers, through consultation and training. Learn more about child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual exploitation (CSE) from our experts who work in this area.

We've been supporting children and young people affected by sexual abuse since 1994.

We support children and their families in many different ways including:

- support services
-
- therapeutic services including counselling
-
- emotional and mental health services
-
- support through the court process
-
- research which includes the voices of children and their families
-
- creating resources for professionals
-
- influencing government and decision makers
-
- increasing public awareness of sexual abuse

You can find out more information about the work Barnardo's do here: [Barnardo's | Children's charity | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk)



External Support for students and families:

The Holly Project-

The Holly Project is a free support service for survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) run by YMCA Wellington.

This award winning service is run by people with lived experience of CSE, either directly or as a family member of someone with lived experience. We really understand the impact and effects of CSE - physically and emotionally. Alongside that support, we also deliver training and awareness sessions to local organisations to help professionals understand not only the signs of CSE but also the impact it has on every aspect of an individual's life and how best you can support victims, survivors and families who are or have previously been through CSE.

You can find out more about the Holly Project and their work here: [Home - The Holly Project | Support for CSE victims and survivors](#)



